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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Parts 1710, 1720, and 1785

[Docket No. RUS-ELECTRIC-21-0016]

RIN 0572-AC49

Implementing Provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule, confirmation

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service, a Rural Development agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), hereinafter referred to as “RUS” or “the Agency,” published in the **Federal Register** on December 6, 2022, a final rule with request for comments. The Agency received no substantive comments, so this notice confirms the final rule as published.

DATES: As of February 21, 2023, the December 6, 2022, effective date for the final rule published December 6, 2022, at 87 FR 74493, is confirmed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis Solano, Rural Utilities Service Electric Program, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1568, Room 5165-S, Washington, DC 20250-3201; telephone: (202) 690-3407; email: alexis.solano@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS published a final rule with request for comments in the **Federal Register** on December 6, 2022, at 87 FR 74493. The final rule implemented sections 6501, 6503, 6505 and 6507 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-34) (Farm Bill).

The Agency received no substantive comments during the public comment period on the final rule

and therefore confirms the rule without change.

Andrew Berke,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2023-03492 Filed 2-17-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. APHIS-2020-0066]

Alignment of Canned Meat and Canned Product Requirements

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are revising the regulations for cured or cooked meat from regions where foot-and-mouth disease exists to reflect changes to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations regarding thermally processed, commercially sterile meat. This action will remove from our regulations reference to a section in FSIS’ regulations that was eliminated when FSIS consolidated their regulations regarding thermally processed, commercially sterile meat. This action will align the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s animal product regulations with the current FSIS regulations.

DATES: Effective February 21, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Nathaniel J. Koval, Veterinary Medical Officer, APHIS Veterinary Services, Strategy and Policy, Animal Product Import and Export, 4700 River Road, Unit 40, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 851-3434; Nathaniel.J.Koval@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals and animal products into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various

foreign animal diseases. The regulations in § 94.4 prescribe conditions for importing into the United States cured or cooked meat from regions where APHIS considers foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) to exist.

Currently, § 94.4(b)(3) states that canned product (canned meat) as defined in 9 CFR 318.300(d) is exempt from the requirements of § 94.4. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) administers the regulations in 9 CFR part 318. In brief, paragraph (d) of § 318.300 had defined canned product as a meat food product with a water activity above 0.85 that receives a thermal process either before or after being packed in a hermetically sealed container. The intent of § 94.4(b)(3) is, accordingly, to specify that canned product that meets FSIS’ definition of that term is exempt from our conditions governing cured or cooked meat from regions where APHIS considers FMD to exist. This exemption is warranted because canned product that meets FSIS’ regulatory definition of that term has been processed in a manner that denatures FMD.

However, on May 31, 2018, FSIS published in the **Federal Register** (83 FR 25302-25325, Docket No. FSIS-2015-0036) ¹ a final rule that, among other things, combined their regulations for thermally processed, commercially sterile meat products that appeared in 9 CFR 318.300 through 381.311 into 9 CFR part 431, Thermally Processed, Commercially Sterile Products. As FSIS’ final rule has taken effect, the reference to § 318.300(d) in APHIS’ regulations is outdated, and it has become necessary to update our regulations to reflect this change by removing reference to 9 CFR 318.300(d) and replacing it with the reference to 9 CFR part 431.

Effective Date

This rule updates APHIS’ regulations in order to ensure that references to FSIS’ regulations are accurate. Therefore, APHIS considers there to be good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 to find that an opportunity for public comment is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest, and this rule may be made effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

¹ To view the final rule, go to www.regulations.gov and enter FSIS-2015-0036 in the Search box.